

Heritage Park Tour Briefing

Eagle Cage: It was constructed in part due to the oil spill from the EXXON VALDEZ in Prince William Sound. In the aftermath of the spill wildlife, specifically birds paid a heavy toll. Numerous organizations began efforts to save and wildlife with the final objective to release them back into the wild. Unfortunately some were not able to return to their natural habitat. Now retired Master Sgt Kerry Seifert, a master falconer, proposed the idea of permanently housing disabled American Bald Eagles on Elmendorf to the commander, 3rd Wing. After receiving approval, a team of volunteers constructed the 60-foot long, 30-foot wide, 16-foot high cage. It seemed a fitting place being that the three fighter squadrons assigned to Elmendorf all flew the F-15 Eagle.

- Started approximately August 1992
- Completed approximately 9 October 1992
- Dedicated rededicated as part of the Yukla 27 Memorial on 20 September 1996
- Cost not available

Today, Notch and One-eyed Jack live in the aviary. (See write up on the eagles) Notch can usually be found on the higher perches and Jack on the ground. Volunteers continue to feed and care for the eagles daily.

Yukla Memorial: Displays the U.S. flag and the Canadian flag in honor of the 24 airman from both countries who died in the crash of the Air Force E-3B AWACS; call sign Yukla 27 on 22 September 1995. The memorial has 24 plaques listing the name and hometown of each person who died. It also has 24 trees planted in and around the memorial to honor those 24 brave airmen.

- Started approximately July 1996
- Completed approximately August 1996
- Dedicated on 20 September 1996
- Cost \$160,000

Wall of Heroes: Displays the POW/MIA flag and the 3rd Wing flag. The plaques list the campaigns the wing participated in and describe some of the heroes of the wing. The model on display in the center is a De Havilland DH-4 biplane flown by the 3rd attack Group in the early 1920s.

- Started 8 August 99
- Completed 9 September 1999
- Dedicated on 17 September 1999
- Cost \$205,272
- Names on the pedestal:

Heritage Park

Tour Briefing

- **General James Doolittle**-As a lieutenant he was assigned to the 3rd Attack Group when he made the first coast-to-coast flight in under 24-hours. He was later awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his daring raid on mainland Japan, “Doolittle Raid.”
- **General Earl Partridge**-Assigned to the 3BG in 1925, after completing flight school. Promoted to 4-star in 1954-Commander in Chief NORAD.
- **General Nathan Twining**-He began with the 3rd Attack Group as a lieutenant and served with the group from 1932-1935. He went on to eventually serve as the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- **General Hoyt Vandenberg**-He began his flying career in 1924 while serving with the 3rd Attack Group. He later became the second Air Force Chief of Staff.
- **Lt General Robert Ruegg**-As a Lt he led the 3BGs first combat mission of WWII. He retired in 1972 after serving as Commander Alaskan Command.
- **Brig General John Henebry**-Commander of the 3BG during the famous raid on Rabaul of WWII. He was promoted to full colonel at the age of 25 years old.
- **Colonel Robert Strickland**- As a lieutenant he led the 3BG to Australia and into WWII. He later again commanded the group during the famed Battle of the Bismarck Sea.
- **Lt Colonel Horace Hickam**-Commander of the 3rd Attack Group who pioneered early ground attack missions. He was killed in November 1934, while attempting a night landing.
- **Major Paul “Pappy” Gunn**-He was a engineer officer assigned to the 3BG during WWII. His field modifications of the A-20 and B-25s made the 3BG into the most deadly and most decorated low-level attack group of WWII.
- **Major Raymond Wilkins**-A squadron commander assigned to the 3BG who lost his life during the raid on Rabaul. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- **Capt John Walmsley**-Pilot of a B-26 during the Korean War. During a night mission he lost his life while using his search light to illuminate ground targets for other B-26s to attack. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- **Sgt Nyle Mickly**-As a B-26 gunner assigned to the 3BG he scored the first aerial victory over North Korea. He shot down a North Korean YAK-3 fighter on 30 Jun 50.

Heritage Park Tour Briefing

McCloud Memorial: This memorial will display a P-38G Lightning, tail number 42-13400. The aircraft had been flown by the 54th Fighter Squadron during the Aleutian Campaign and crashed on the Island of Attu. For many years numerous people had hoped to recover the aircraft only to have the plans canceled. In 1998, Lieutenant General David McCloud, Commander, Eleventh Air Force, gave his backing for a recovery effort. In June 1999, a joint team of Air Force and Air National Guard recovered the aircraft. Tragically, on 26 July 1999, General McCloud died in an aircraft crash. He had been flying his privately owned Russian built acrobatics aircraft.

- Started on 17 March 00
- Completion scheduled for 7 July 00
- Dedication 26 July 00
- Cost \$223,000 does not include the cost of recovery, restoration or mounting of the P-38.

Heritage Park: Heritage Park consists of a stage, three stationary flagpoles, and five static display aircraft. It was built as a lasting memory and a place for ceremonies and future events marking the 3rd Wing's heritage. The aircraft all represent aircraft flown by the 3rd Wing or flown by units at Elmendorf.

- Started on 1 October 98 initial paving contract
- Completed on approximately mid June 1999, placement of the final aircraft
- Dedicated on 3 July 1999
- Cost \$396,131, does not include the cost of restoring and mounting the five aircraft.
- Static Display aircraft

- **McDonnell-Douglas F-15A Eagle**, tail number 78-0081 – restored as a F-15C with original tail number. It was originally flown in Alaska by the 21 TFW and later by the 3 WG.
- **Lockheed T-33A T-Bird or Shooting Star**, tail number 53-6021. Painted in the red and gray arctic markings of Alaskan Air Command from the early 1970s.
- **Northrop F-89D Scorpion**, tail number 54-1862 – tail number altered for display 53-2453. Painted to represent the 54 Fighter Interceptor Squadron then stationed at Ellsworth AFB, SD serving the air defense mission. Although now inactivated, the 54 FS was assigned to the 3 WG when the aircraft was put on display.

Heritage Park Tour Briefing

- **Convair F-102A Delta Dagger**, tail number 56-1053 – tail number altered for display 56-1274. The aircraft is painted in the colors of then 317th Fighter Interceptor Squadron which had been stationed in Alaska from 1957-1969.
- **McDonnell F-4C Phantom II**, tail number 63-7628 – restored as a F-4D, tail number 66-0723. Painted to represent the 35 TFS, which had been assigned to the 3 TFW while stationed at Kunsan AB, Korea.

There are three other aircraft on display here at Elmendorf; they are a Vertol Boeing H-21, McDonnell F-4C and Boeing F-15A mockup

- **Vertol Boeing H-21 Workhorse**, tail number 52-8696, restored and painted in the colors of an Alaskan Air Command search and rescue helicopter from the early 1960s. It is displayed at the entrance of the Muldoon Gate.
- **McDonnell F-4C Phantom II**, tail number 64-090, the aircraft is currently painted with bogus markings showing the 3 WG tail flash. It is displayed at the entrance of the Government Hill Gate.
- **Boeing F-15A Mockup:** A mock F-15 arrived at Elmendorf AFB without landing gear. Maintenance personnel acquired landing gear and doors, completed the restoration and maneuvered the aircraft into its position just outside the Boniface Gate on 6 June 2004.

Current a/o May 2007